Thank you, Gerard. Gerard ordinarily lives nine timezones and 9000 miles away from me, so my midnight is his mid-morning, and that's when he always manages to call me with the latest big news about WZ. But if it weren't for Gerard and his big news and midnight phone calls, I don't think WiktionaryZ would be where it is.

WZ is one of those projects that can't be done, or at least that's what some people said when we began. It isn't done yet, but we have a good start, and I'd like to tell you about it.

Could I see by a show of hands who here has a printed defining dictionary? A translating dictionary? A translating dictionary between two languages that aren't English? The reference section in my library has a book that takes 1000 common English words and offers translations into some 20 languages. The words are in alphabetical order by the English. If you happened to speak Dutch as a native language, you'll have to study English or this book will do you no good.

Translating dictionaries
Fine for common languages, common words.

When you look at the existing Wiktionaries, you'll see that there are several of them. In fact, there is one for each language, or at least one for each language that anybody has bothered to start yet. There's an English Wiktionary, a French Wiktionary, a Dutch Wiktionary, Swedish, Chinese, and so on. Unlike that dusty tome that you use for a doorstop, the English Wiktionary aims to describe not only words in English but all words in all languages. It is the English Wiktionary because it only describes those words in English. The word may be in Finnish, but the definition or translation of it will be in English. We'd like to have all the English words translated into every language. That's already a big job, but we're gradually getting it done.
In fact, wikis may be the only hope for accomplishing a task this huge. Wikis have
*The capacity to store this much data
*The people to help maintain it. Lexicographic data can be costly to maintain because of its size.
*The means to make it accessible.
### The problem

- A lot of redundant effort for one meaning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>English definition in English Wiktionary</th>
<th>Spanish translation in English Wiktionary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English translation in Spanish Wiktionary</td>
<td>Spanish definition in Spanish Wiktionary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“paper” – a sheet of would be a good example to discuss

You now have four articles for just two words.
The problem

• A lot of redundant effort for one meaning
• It just gets worse!

You now have nine articles just for three words.
That’s a lot of places to
Put the data
Maintain the data
Look for the data
Make a mistake

The only things that are not redundant here are the English definition in English, the Spanish definition in Spanish, and the French definition in French. The rest are just relationships being handled really badly.
The problem

• Different senses have different translations.
  - Board: a piece of wood
    • Swedish: brädabräda
  - Board: a committee
    • Swedish: styrelse
• Words and meaning do not have a one-to-one relationship.
• Languages divide concepts differently.

Formatting doesn’t cut it.
  Relationships not maintained
  Manual process
  Flat data structure
Dictionary data is highly structured
  Same information in each article
Demo of stupid way that English Wiktionary handles this: big tables, no good clues in translation articles which definition is which.

Grandchild problem and words that don’t translate?
Hinge on Defined Meaning

- Translations create articles
- Translations remain associated with a meaning.
- Definition shows in the user’s language
Semantic drift is the inconsistency that happens when
-somebody changes one of these definitions after the fact
Or
-somebody translates a definition incorrectly or too loosely

Links can be created that nobody knew.

******Demo goes *here*.******

mayor: comparativo de grande; más grande
English translation of definition: comparative of grande (large); more large
English translation of word: bigger; larger

English, mayor: the leader of a city or municipality
Spanish: el líder de una ciudad o un municipio
Spanish translation of word: alcalde
So what?

• See any language combination
• Ready for re-use:
  - Machine translation
  - Spelling and grammar checkers
  - Translation glossaries
  - Custom language-learning drills
• Instant Commons
• Things we haven’t invented

Somebody translates the French to Thai. Somebody else translates the English to Welsh. Somebody else links the French to the English.

Need a Welsh-Thai translation? Click the button.

Combinations no publisher would touch.

Information maintains its relationships and the computer knows what each piece is and what it does.

Gerard’s definition of success for the project is when somebody does something with it that we haven’t thought of yet! What that means is that we have set it up correctly enough and created or imported enough content that somebody can do something novel and unanticipated with it.

Multilingual ontology: stores relationships between words, across languages. Useful for indexing of other data such as images.
Still under construction

- Language-specific attributes: part of speech, gender
- Wikilinks
- Categories
- Way to merge extra Defined Meanings

Need to be very careful how we implement these
What WiktionaryZ is not

- An attempt to close down or destroy existing Wiktionaries
- An English- or European-centric effort
- An effort only by volunteers: partners and specialized content

If communities fold their projects into WZ, it’s because WZ merits it and the community chooses to do so.

Efforts are continuing to incorporate special character sets and coexist with languages that read right-to-left.

Each language will have a community for language-specific issues with an International Beer Parlour for overall discussions in any language.

And it’s not only Gerard’s pet project, either!

We hope to bring in people from all languages, especially those for whom editing entirely in a second or third language would be challenging.

We do want data to go both ways, between *.wikt and WZ. There will be bots.

Licensing presently makes this transfer one-way from WZ to *.wikt
Try this at home

- Create a user account. [http://wiktionaryz.org/](http://wiktionaryz.org/)
- Add your Babel templates.
- Understand Defined Meaning.
- Ask a bureaucrat for edit rights.
- Try it and tell us what you think!
- Be patient.

It’s not open to the public yet because it’s still under construction.
Please report bugs and discuss concerns/problems.
If you’re interested in helping with programming, let us know!